

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ANKARA 03688 121450Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----083161 121453Z /45

P R 121350Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO USDELMC BRUSSELS PRIORITY
INFO USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY
SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1915
JCS WASHDC
USNMR SHAPE
CINCEUR
DIA WASHDC

S E C R E T ANKARA 3688

EXDIS

MILITARY ADDRESSEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

FOR GENERAL KNOWLTON FROM AMBASSADOR SPIERS; ALSO FOR GENERAL
HAIG, GENERAL HUYSER, LTG SMITH, AND LTG TIGHE

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS: MARR, NATO, TU
SUBJ: TURKEY AND NATO

REF: USDELMC MSG 356/78, DTG 101544Z MAY 78 (NOTAL)

1. I GREATLY APPRECIATED YOUR MESSAGE ON GENERAL ZEINER
GUNDERSON'S CONVERSATIONS WITH AMBASSADOR KIRCA. WE HAVE
RECENTLY HEARD THE SAME REFRAINS HERE, PARTICULARLY KIRCA'S
COMMENTS THAT THE ADMINISTRATION IS NOT SERIOUS ABOUT
LIFTING THE EMBARGO AND THAT A GREATER EFFORT IS NEEDED WITH
CONGRESS. HERE IN ANKARA, THERE IS DEEPENING PESSIMISM
ABOUT THE PROSPECTS FOR LIFTING THE EMBARGO AND REHABILITATING
U.S.-TURKISH RELATIONS. TO BE FRANK, WE HAVE HAD A DIFFICULT

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PAGE 02 ANKARA 03688 121450Z

TIME BUCKING UP THE MORALE OF OUR TURKISH MILITARY AND CIVILIAN
COLLEAGUES, AND THIS TASK WILL BE ALL THE MORE DIFFICULT IN
VIEW OF YESTERDAY'S NEGATIVE VOTE BY THE SENATE FOREIGN
RELATIONS COMMITTEE.

2. OF SPECIAL IMPORTANCE IN KIRCA'S REMARKS WAS THE
IMPLICATION THAT PRIME MINISTER ECEVIT MAY MOVE AT THE WASHINGTON

SUMMIT TO ALTER TURKEY'S STATUS WITHIN THE ALLIANCE. WE HAVE REPORTED ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS RECENTLY THAT THE TURKS APPEAR TO BE KEEPING THEIR OPTIONS OPEN ABOUT CONTINUATION OF THEIR CLOSE DEFENSE RELATIONSHIP WITH NATO AND THE WEST, AND THAT THEIR FUTURE COURSE WILL IN LARGE PART BE DETERMINED BY CONGRESSIONAL ACTION ON REPEAL OF THE ARMS EMBARGO. WHILE IT IS NOT POSSIBLE AT THIS JUNCTURE TO PREDICT HOW FAR THE TURKS MIGHT GO IN ADOPTING A STANCE INDEPENDENT OF ALLIANCE INTERESTS, WE BELIEVE IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE TURKS MAY ADOPT A NON-COOPERATIVE POSITION ON THE LONG-TERM DEFENSE PROGRAM AND AT LEAST REPEAT THEIR DISSATISFACTION WITH THE LEVEL OF U.S. SUPPORT FOR TURKEY AS A NATO ALLY.

3. WARM REGARDS. SPIERS

SECRET

NNN

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